

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority. Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the corresponding Japanese patent application (JP2003-395370, filed November 26, 2003). An indication that this document has been safely received would be appreciated.

**35 U.S.C. §112**

The Examiner appears to be unclear as to who or what obtains the access restriction information, information at a volume, and attribute information. Applicants believe that the discussion below with respect to the §102 paragraph should clarify this matter for the Examiner. The claims have also been amended to be more clear. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

**35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ofek et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,598,134). These rejections are traversed as follows.

According to the present invention, access restriction information of a port of a first storage device is obtained for a second storage device. First, access restriction information is obtained for volumes arranged for each port of the first storage device. Attribute information including the port type and the status of utilization of each port of a second storage device is obtained through a network. On the basis of the attribute information thus obtained, a port of the second storage device is selected for use for access to a volume of the first storage device. Then, on the port selected for access to the volume of the first storage device, access restriction information of the port of the first storage device corresponding to that volume is set up for the port of the second storage device. This way, the access restriction information can be provided to the port of the second storage device for access to the volume of the first storage device.

For example, Fig. 1B shows an old storage device 105 and a new storage device 110. A storage area 120 of the old storage device 105 can be accessed by the new storage device 110 using the access restriction information obtained from the old storage device 105 (See also Fig. 7, steps S3040 and S0345).

On the other hand, Ofek et al are completely silent regarding obtaining access restriction information in the manner presently claimed. According to Ofek et al, data migration from an existing (first) storage system 14 to a replacement (second) storage system 16 is disclosed (see Fig. 1). The second storage system 16 includes a map/table 24 which indicates whether or not data requested from a host computer is stored in the first data storage system or in the second data storage system during data migration. Upon receiving a read request from the host computer, using the data/map table 24, the storage system determines whether to access a volume of the second storage system, if data has been migrated, or access a volume of the first storage system if data has not been migrated (see column 5, lines 45-55 and Fig. 3, steps 101-108). Upon receiving a write request from the host computer, the second storage system uses information from the data/map table 24 to either update a volume in the second storage system, if data has been migrated, or suspend the write request until reading has been completed from the first storage system (see column 5, lines 45-55 and Fig. 3, steps 120-130).

Notwithstanding such disclosure, Ofek et al are completely silent with respect to obtaining access restriction information for a second storage device from a first storage device having a volume which is to be accessed by the second storage device. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Request for Interview**

Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of this application. As such, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time for the interview.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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